Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine Weekly Notice, November 26, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at: **http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/**

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) final draft *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death) Federal Order and associated CCC funding request are moving forward. The new Federal Order to prevent the spread of the pathogen in the U.S. will regulate the movement of all nursery stock from California, Oregon, and Washington. The Order and an APHIS *P. ramorum* strategic plan have been developed with input from industry representatives and state cooperators.

On November 12, PPQ confirmed the detection of *P. ramorum* at six Oregon nurseries. On November 19, PPQ confirmed *P. ramorum* at two Connecticut nurseries, one of these has two outlets. The detections in Oregon were the result of compliance agreement surveys. The Connecticut detections were made during trace forward investigations as a result of the Hines Nursery finds in Forest Grove, Oregon. The Confirmed Nursery Protocol has been or will be implemented at these facilities.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) survey data are updated in this report. As of November 22, 2004, the USFS has surveyed 681 nursery perimeters, collecting 3207. To date none have tested positive for *P. ramorum*. The Service has also surveyed 266 general forest locations, collecting 1310 samples. Two of those samples, from Golden Gate Park in San Francisco have previously been reported as positive.

As of November 22, 2004, the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey is 172 in 22 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina; there was one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR (1), AZ (1), CA (53), CO (1), CT (2), FL (6), GA (16), LA (5), MD (2), NC (9), NJ (1), NM (1), NY (1), OK (1), OR (24), PA (1), SC (4), TN (2), TX (11), VA (2) and WA (25).

There were no changes reported on national survey statistics this week. As of November 14, 2004, participating States through out the nation have surveyed 3,095 sites and have collected 50,820 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive. APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are reported complete in 22 of 23 Western Region States currently participating (AK, AR, AZ, CA, CO, IA, ID, KS, LA, MO, MT, NE, NM, ND, NV, OK, OR, SD, UT, TX, WA, and WY) and 18 of 28 participating Eastern Region states, including Puerto Rico (AL, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, KY. ME, MI, MN, MS.NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, TN,WI).

Source: Jim Writer

***PUCCINIA VERONICAE-LONGIFOLIAE* SAVILE**

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), National Identification Service has confirmed the identification of *Puccinia veronicae-longifoliae* Savile, an exotic "rust" fungus which causes the plant disease commonly called *Veronica* rust. This plant pathogen was detected when a commercial nursery operator in Michigan observed foliar disease symptoms on field-grown *Veronica* plants.

The source of the *Veronica* rust infection in Michigan is unknown at this time. *Puccinia veronicae-longifoliae* has been reported from China, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Sweden, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. The Michigan nursery uses both in-house grown *Veronica* stock and *Veronica* cuttings obtained from a facility in Costa Rica to plant their production fields. Trace backs determined that the Costa Rican facility received its nuclear or "mother" stock from both the U.S. and Europe. More than 1.2 million un-rooted *Veronica* cuttings were shipped last year from the Costa Rican facility to growers in 30 U.S. states and four provinces in Canada.

To date, there have been no other reports of *P. veronicae-longifoliae* from any other Michigan nursery or from nurseries in any other U.S. State, or in Canada, Costa Rica or the facility in Costa Rica. As soon as rust in the Michigan nursery was positively identified, all suspect plants were restricted by the Michigan

Department of Agriculture (MDA). However, prior to confirmation, plants had been shipped to 41 establishments in 19 U.S. states. Reportedly, actions will be voluntarily taken to disinfest the *Veronica* field site to prevent spread of the pathogen.

The New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG) held a teleconference November 5, 2004 to discuss the *Veronica* rust situation with MDA and APHIS. Teleconference participants included members of several APHIS - PPQ staffs, including Plant Health Programs, Center for Plant Health Science and Technology, New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG), PDMP, Eastern Region and Michigan. Subsequently, the risk and hazard of this pathogen were assessed by NPAG through literature research, PPQ database queries, and discussions with subject-matter experts.

Based on NPAG's assessment, APHIS will not classify *P. veronicae-longifoliae* as a quarantine significant pest and no Federal regulatory action will be taken. The rationale for this action is:

- *P. veronicae-longifoliae* is a host-specific, fungal pathogen, only known to affect the foliage of three species of *Veronica*, none of which are listed as Threatened and Endangered in the U.S.
- *Veronica* is an herbaceous perennial landscape plant of minor economic, environmental and social importance.
- State Integrated Pest Management programs are likely to provide efficacious control of *Veronica* rust.

Source: Lynn Evans-Goldner

GRASSHOPPER

The Grasshopper Planning Meeting, involving approximately 40 people from PPQ Headquarters, Western Region Office, and 17 Western Grasshopper States, met in Denver to review 2004 field activities and to plan for 2005. Seventeen States completed surveys for grasshoppers or Mormon crickets, and 12 states conducted treatments in 46 rangeland blocks. Sufficient funds were available in FY 2004 for all treatment programs that were requested by the land managers and deemed by the State Plant Health Directors to be necessary and operationally feasible. Tremendous strides have been made in the last three years in adopting survey methods for electronic collection and submission of survey data, with the end result of weekly maps. In 2005, surveys will be further expanded into web-based mapping, so that PPQ management, states, and cooperators (with restricted access) can view near-realtime survey maps and utilize valuable map layers (e.g., land ownership, water bodies, treatment blocks, etc.).

Source: Charlie Brown

EMERALD ASH BORER

Michigan:

Three new potential emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations have been discovered during trap tree removal activities in Cheboygan, St. Joseph, and Midland Counties in Michigan. Larvae were found as the ash trees had their bark peeled to look for infestation. All sites have been confirmed by the USDA Identifier as of Wednesday, November 17, 2004. Nearby property owners are being contacted to alert them to the presence of EAB in their areas. The sites are as follows:

- St. Joseph - Nottawa Township - Walterspough Rd., 1/4-mile north of Wasepi Road.
- Cheboygan - Forest Township (south half) - Black River Road., north of Dixon Hwy.
- Midland - Warren Township - Pere Marquette Road., between Lewis and Geneva Roads.

Two EAB larvae were discovered in Fairview, Oscoda County, MI and confirmed by Dr. James Zablotny on November 19, 2004. The specimen was collected from a trap tree. This is the first find for this county.

Ohio:

USDA EAB Program Supervisor Rick McKay, USDA Regional Program Manager Phil Bell, and USDA Staff Officer Deborah McPartlan met with Ohio Department of Agriculture personnel last week to discuss the proposed EAB FY 05 budget for their state and planned activities to combat this pest for next season. Ohio currently has 13 infestation sites that began cropping up

starting early last summer in the northwestern portion of the state. The plan is to eradicate each site, beginning with the outer south, west, and eastern edges, working back toward the Michigan state border.
Source: Deborah McPartlan

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE
New Jersey:
On Tuesday November 23, 2004, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) and USDA APHIS PPQ held a walking tour of the Middlesex/Union Counties asian longhorned beetle (ALB) infestation for the public officials of the Township of Woodbridge and the Borough of Carteret, NJ and the local media. NJDA Secretary Kuperus, NJDA Division Director Carl Schulze, and APHIS PPQ ALB Project Director Barry Emens were chief spokesman for the event. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the next major phase of the ALB eradication program - the tree removal process. Beginning November 29, 2004, phase one of the removal process will begin, targeting the removal of the 410 infested trees. This will be followed over the next several months by the removal of another 3,500 host trees in proximity to the infestation. The message that was delivered to the group clearly stated that the removal of host trees is necessary in order to eradicate this exotic pest. Our goal is not to control the pest, but to eradicate it.

Mayor Frank Pelzman of Woodbridge thanked NJDA and APHIS for our quick and professional response to this serious problem that is impacting his city and the surrounding cities of Carteret, Rahway, and Linden.

The following media attended the event: Home News Tribune, The Woodbridge Sentinel, The Star-Ledger, Channel 12 NJ Cable News Network. A phone interview was also conducted with a reporter from The Post Standard, Syracuse, NY. Most stories should run in November 24 editions. Channel 12's story was slated to air during their 10 p.m. news cast on November 23. Additional media responded on November 24: CBS TV from NY interviewed Barry Emens, 1010 WINS Radio called for an interview, and Gardener News will be writing an article on the event.

Delimiting surveys continued this week with 47,413 trees inspected to date. A total of 410 infested trees have been detected. The entire quarantine zone is 10.5 square miles. Four new compliance agreements were issued this week for a total of 70. Twenty nine USDA climbers, two NJDA climbers, and twenty five program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forestry, and Federal Gain Inspection Service are performing survey and regulatory activities. There are 56 program personnel working survey and regulatory operations. A total of 56.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION SYSTEM (ERIS):
An on-line web based training session on the Survey Handbook was conducted this week by the REI, the system contractor, for the ALB program staff.
Final historical data migration for all program files will be accomplished in December.

A requirements session for the GIS application is scheduled for early December.
Source: Christine Markham

SOYBEAN RUST

Last week on Friday (November 19, 2004), while surveying areas in Crittenden County, Arkansas, a county extension specialist collected a soybean leaf sample with lesions consistent with soybean rust. The sample was initially screened at the University of Arkansas as suspected positive for *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, or soybean rust. The suspected sample from Arkansas was then submitted to researchers at the Beltsville testing facility on Saturday - November 20, 2004. The sample was morphologically positive and was validated (confirmed positive) using polymerase chain reaction testing at USDA's National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, over the weekend. The number of confirmed soybean rust infected States in the U.S. now stands at 6 (LA, MS, FL, GA, AL, and AR).
Source: Anwar Rizvi